

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 140742

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 9977 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
KHARTOUM MOGADISCIO JUN 15, 1977

QTE S E C R E T CAIRO 9977

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET, EG, US

SUBJECT: FAHMY AGAIN URGES U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA

1. WHEN RELATING BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT OF STRONG SOVIET
SUPPORT FOR MENGISTU (SEPTTEL), FAHMY AGAIN MADE PITCH FOR
U.S. ARMS FOR SOMALIA. SOVIETS, YUGOSLAVS, AND LIBYANS
ARE ALL HELPING MENGISTU. SOME ISRAELIS ALSO STILL IN
ETHIOPIA. ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ETHIOPIAN MILITIA MEN HAVE
BEEN TRAINED AND, ACCORDING GOE INFORMATION, WILL SHORTLY
BE USED TO "MASSACRE" ALL DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

2. GOE, FAHMY NOTED, IS PROVIDING ERITREANS AND SOMALIS
WITH SMALL ARMS TO MEET THE THREAT. AS RESULT USG EFFORTS,
SAUDIS HAVE ALSO "MOVED A LITTLE BIT" BY PROVIDING SIAD
BARRE WITH \$15 MILLION. BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO MEET
THE ETHIOPIAN THREAT. UNLESS THE MENGISTU REGIME CAN BE
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BROUGHT DOWN IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, IT WILL BE A SERIOUS
THREAT TO SUDAN, SOMALIA, AND OTHER FRIENDLY STATES.

3. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE HAVE OFFERED ECONOMIC
HELP TO SOMALIA AND ARE CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING IN
A CONSORTIUM THROUGH WHICH SOME KIND OF ARMS MIGHT
BE OBTAINED. FAHMY REPLIED THAT THIS IS HELPFUL,

BUT NOT ENOUGH. USG SHOULD PROVIDE ARMS DIRECTLY.

4. SUDANESE, HE WENT ON, HAD TOLD HIM AMBASSADOR YOUNG RECENTLY SUGGESTED IN KHARTOUM THAT THERE BE A "DIVISION OF INFLUENCE" IN EASTERN AFRICA: SOVIETS MIGHT BE PRINCIPAL INFLUENCE IN EHTIOPIA AND SOMALIA AND U.S. IN SUDAN AND EGYPT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS REFLECTS USG POLICY, BUT WISHED US TO KNOW THAT ANY SUCH CONCEPT SMACKS OF "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE" AND IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT. AS WE SHOULD KNOW, SOMALIS ARE CHAFING UNDER PRE-EMINENT SOVIET INFLUENCE AND WANT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER IT. WHATEVER DOUBTS GOE MAY HAVE ABOUT SIAD BARRE, EGYPT INTENDS TO HELP HIM TO DO SO. USG SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE SIAD BARRE'S DILEMMA AND BE MORE RESPONSIVE. SOMALIA NEEDS ARMS. AS HE UNDERSTOOD OUR NEW ARMS POLICY, SUCH ASSISTANCE SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED SINCE IT IS AS MUCH IN USG INTEREST AS IN ANYONE ELSE'S TO ENCOURAGE SOMALIS GET RID OF SOVIET NAVAL BASES.

5. I TOLD HIM THAT WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF SOMALI DESIRES. AS HE KNEW, WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. I WOULD CONVEY HIS APPEAL, BUT COULD NOT OFFER MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT ON ARMS ISSUE.

6. COMMENT: FAHMY WAS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT SOVIET DETERMINATION SUPPORT MENGISTU AS APPARENTLY STATED
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UNEQUIVOCALLY BE BREZHNEV. EGYPTIANS WANT MENGISTU REGIME TO COLLAPSE, AND SOO, THROUGH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PRESSURES. IN THIS CONTEXT, WHILE NOT STATING SO PUBLICLY, THEY ARE PRIVATELY TALKING ABOUT RETURN OF ETHNIC SOMALI SPEAKING OGADEN AREA TO SOMALIA AS ONE MEANS OF WEAKENING MENGISTU.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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